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THE "ROYAL IRISH" AT TEL-EL-KEBIR.  
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MY HOME RULER.  
O MARY, THY LAUGH WAS SWEET.  
THE HIGH-BORN ORPHAN.

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Being myself an Irishwoman, my work has been a work of love; hoping to sing—not sermonise—into the English heart a tenderer feeling towards Old Ireland. I prefer to dwell, not on the faults, but the virtues of my people; their domestic purity, their strong affections, their innate loyalty, courage, and fidelity; also, last, not least, their indomitable *gaiété de cœur*, which implies neither hardness, shallowness, nor selfishness of heart, yet enables the Celtic nature to tide over trouble in a way which the more sombre Saxon can hardly understand. If I can do this, I shall go on singing. Thus taking up Thomas Moore's harp, I may lay it down, as he did, with his own farewell words—

I was but as the wind passing heedlessly over,  
And all the wild sweetness I waked was thine own.

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